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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the President of the Council

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 2017/31, the Economic and Social Council requested the President of the Council to continue to maintain close contact with the Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on the matters considered in that resolution and to report thereon to the Council.

2. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 72/93, the General Assembly requested the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Non-Self-Governing Territory, so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories. In paragraph 21 of the resolution, the Assembly commended the Council for its debate and its resolution on the question and requested the Council to continue to consider and intensify its cooperation with the Special Committee, with the aim of developing appropriate measures for the further coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the Assembly. The Assembly, in paragraph 12 of its resolution 72/92, encouraged the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations to continue to provide assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories affected by the hurricanes and other natural disasters and to formulate appropriate programmes to support emergency response and recovery and rebuilding efforts, and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly on this matter.

3. The following 17 Territories are under the purview of the Special Committee: American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas),[1] French Polynesia, Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands and Western Sahara. Information submitted in response to a request to the specialized agencies and the international organizations associated with the United Nations to provide an account of their activities in relation to those Territories is set out below.

II. Support provided to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international organizations associated with the United Nations

4. Responses were received from 11 United Nations entities. Of these 11 entities, the following 3 indicated that they were not able to provide or did not have any information to submit on the issue: the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme. According to the information received, during the period under review, the following eight organizations of the United Nations system continued to provide support to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, pursuant to the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Special Committee.

[1] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (see ST/CS/SER.A/42).

A. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

5. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) provided the following information regarding American Samoa, French Polynesia, Guam and New Caledonia.

Regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

6. The regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific[2] was adopted at the Fourth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, held in Bangkok from 29 to 31 March 2017, and endorsed by the Commission in its resolution 73/9 of 19 May 2017. It embodies the region's vision for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, and also provides the framework for the secretariat's work in supporting its members and associate members in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

7. The regional road map identifies priority areas for regional cooperation and collaboration among member States with an emphasis on practical means of implementation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Key areas, namely data and statistics, technology, financing for development, policy coherence, regional partnerships, social development, disaster risk reduction and resilience, climate change, management of natural resources, connectivity, and energy, also set out the direction and approaches for the secretariat's normative, analytical and capacity-building work, as well as for strategic partnerships with agencies of the United Nations and other stakeholders.

Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report

8. The Commission, in the *Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report 2017: Investing in Infrastructure for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future*,[3] provides analysis and policy recommendations related to the three pillars of sustainable development, with a focus on countries with special needs. The annual reports provide economic, social and environmental development analysis related to associate members American Samoa, French Polynesia, Guam and New Caledonia, on the basis of data availability.

B. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

9. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) provided the information presented below pursuant to paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 72/92 on economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and paragraph 7 of Assembly resolution 72/93 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.

10. Natural disasters are a major development challenge for the Caribbean, which is the second most disaster-prone region in the world, after Asia. Natural disasters impact major sectors, such as tourism and agriculture, have knock-on effects on gross domestic product (GDP) and exports, and increase public debt.

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[2] E/ESCAP/73/31, annex II. Available from http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/publications/SDGs-Regional-Roadmap.pdf.

[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.17.II.F.9. Available from http://www.unescap.org/publications/asia-pacific-countries-special-needs-2017.

11. The 2017 hurricane season was unprecedented for the subregion. Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria, two category 5 hurricanes, both severely impacted the northern Caribbean in September 2017, including the Non-Self-Governing Territories of Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the United States Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

12. The impact of those events further exposed the vulnerability of the Territories to external shocks, given their limited economic resources, coupled with an inability to influence prices and global demand for their goods, and high transportation costs facing their fragile economies. Moreover, for the most part, the Territories share similar characteristics that contribute to their environmental vulnerability, including their relatively low and flat topology, scarce land resources, high population densities (especially along coastal areas), small vulnerable watersheds, high levels of species endemism, proximity to active tectonic plates and relatively scarce water resources. In addition, they are located within a very active hurricane belt.[4]

13. Following the passage of the devastating hurricanes, and in response to requests from the Territories for technical cooperation support, ECLAC fielded damage and loss assessment missions to Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

14. In Anguilla, the tourism sector, the driving force of the economy, was most affected by the hurricanes. While the damages were significant, estimated at 275 million East Caribbean dollars (EC$) (primarily to buildings, equipment, furniture and landscaping), the losses represented a longer-term impact. Losses to the tourism sector were estimated at another EC$ 270 million, rolling out to 2019 (2017: EC$ 101.2 million; 2018: EC$ 168.1 million; and 2019: EC$ 898 thousand). In addition, the reduced tourist arrivals were expected to have spillover effects on the rest of the economy. Given the sweeping effects of the hurricanes on the domestic economy, current revenues were projected to decline by 21 per cent to EC $185.5 million, from a pre-hurricane target of EC$ 215 million.

15. In the British Virgin Islands, the assessment mission estimated the total costs at US$ 2.3 billion. Of that total, damages were estimated at US$ 1.6 billion, with the productive sectors, social sector and infrastructure accounting for 41.9, 40.2, and 17.6 per cent, respectively. Losses were estimated at US$ 444 million, of which 82.2 percent was in the productive sectors. Overall, tourism was the sector most affected, sustaining 46.6 per cent of total costs, 41.3 per cent of damages, and 81.5 percent of total losses. As a main source of employment, the suspension of operations in the tourism sector, coupled with the severe damage or destruction of the housing stock which became temporarily or permanently uninhabitable, resulted in further spill-over effects on the social sector.

16. Moderate damage was sustained in the Turks and Caicos Islands. The total costs were estimated at US$ 520 million, of which US$ 289.6 million represented damages, primarily in tourism and housing. Some setback is expected to economic development and social well-being, with long-term impacts on the economy, society and the environment. Plans for national and local development need to be realigned to allow for the redirection of financial and human resources towards the process of reconstruction.

17. In all of the assessments, ECLAC proffered sector-specific recommendations based on the analyses of sectoral experts. The proposals were intended to inform a progressive strategy that placed resilience at the forefront and formed part of a comprehensive approach to reduce vulnerabilities, improve risk mitigation strategies and promote multisectoral collaboration in the disaster risk management process.

[4] See ECLAC, ("Study on the vulnerability and resilience of Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS)", document LC/CAR/L.354, p. 22. Available from http://repositorio.cepal.org/handle/11362/38568.

Ultimately, the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, with integrated and indivisible goals and targets, offer an opportunity to address vulnerability and promote resilience in the subregion. In particular, at least 25 targets in 10 of the Goals[5] are particularly important to addressing vulnerabilities in the countries and Territories adversely impacted by the hurricanes.

18. In addition to supporting the Territories in the aftermath of the passage of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria, the Commission continued to provide a political forum for the Territories to engage in high-level discussions aimed at addressing the development challenges of the subregion. For instance, the British Virgin Islands participated in the eighteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee on 19 May 2017.

19. In the areas of disaster risk management and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Commission also engaged the Territories in capacity-building initiatives (see table).

Date	*Event*	*Participating Territories*
24–27 January 2017	Planning for Disaster Risk Management and Disaster Assessment Methodology in the Context of the 2030 Development Agenda and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals	British Virgin Islands
14–16 February 2017	Caribbean symposium on mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals in national development planning	Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, United States Virgin Islands
18 May 2017	Workshop to accelerate Sustainable Development Goal implementation in the Caribbean	British Virgin Islands
14–16 November 2017	Workshop on TradeCAN, MagicPlus and WITS[a]	Montserrat
1 December 2017	Expert group meeting on planning for the 2020 round of censuses in the Caribbean	British Virgin Islands
13–14 December 2017	Subregional workshop on implementing evidence-based policy planning for Sustainable Development	British Virgin Islands

[a] Trade software packages: TradeCAN — Trade Competitiveness Analysis of Nations; MagicPlus — Module to Analyse the Growth of International Commerce; and WITS — World Integrated Trade Solution. Available from https://repositorio.cepal.org.

20. Finally, the Commission continues to include detailed coverage of the economic performance of the Territories of Anguilla and Montserrat in *Economic Survey of the Caribbean*,[6] published annually, and the *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of the Caribbean*[7] and is working towards expanding coverage to other Territories.

[5] Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 11, 13, 14 and 15.

[6] The most recent edition is *Economic Survey of the Caribbean 2017* (United Nations publication, LC/CAR/TS.2017/9).

[7] See *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of the Caribbean, 2016–2017* (United Nations publication, LC/CAR/L.503).

C. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

21. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) provides support for sustainable development policies and practices in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food security. FAO assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories is facilitated by its field offices, including the Subregional Office for the Caribbean, located in Barbados, and the Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands, located in Samoa.

22. Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular small islands, are highly sensitive to both climatic and non-climatic shocks, owing to their geophysical characteristics and socioeconomic vulnerabilities. There is increasing evidence that natural disasters and environmental stresses influence migration patterns through the direct and indirect effects they have on livelihoods and well-being; in turn, migration shapes the social and economic landscapes where sustainable development takes place. It is therefore key to understand and appraise the relationship between natural disasters, environmental stresses and migration in those Territories in order to enhance the effectiveness of the measures aimed at accelerating progress in the economic and social sectors. Doing so would make it possible to tackle the challenges and harness the opportunities for sustainable development stemming from migration.

Subregional Office in Barbados

23. The Subregional Office in Barbados hosts the secretariat of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission. This regional fishery body, established in 1973, with 34 member States, includes the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland among its members. The Non-Self-Governing Territories of Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands have participated at various levels in the technical and scientific advisory activities of the Commission. During 2017 their involvement has been mainly through the participation of Montserrat in meetings of the Working Group on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. As a result, Montserrat has benefitted from capacity-building, awareness-raising, technical assistance and information dissemination by FAO on such matters, using resources mobilized by the secretariat of the Commission from the members and donors.

24. In recent years the territories of Anguilla, Bermuda and Montserrat have formally represented the United Kingdom at the sessions of the Commission. At the sessions, regional fisheries management and conservation recommendations are reviewed and adopted for voluntary implementation by the member States, including the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Wider Caribbean Region/Western Central Atlantic. A list of important activities related to regional fisheries and aquaculture in which the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean participated in 2017 is set out below.

25. With respect to the work of FAO in the area of plant and animal production and health, representatives from the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands participate in the Plant Health Directors Forum and the Caribbean Animal Health Network and benefit from various training activities, information sharing and the like, as part of the two networks.

Subregional Office in Samoa

FAO and Tokelau

26. Tokelau joined FAO as an Associate Member in 2011 and has received technical assistance from FAO along with other members of FAO in the Pacific. The three atolls, Atafu, Nukunonu and Fakaofo, with a total land area of 12 km^2 are separated by some 60 to 90 kilometres of open ocean. Except for Fakaofo (which has two

villages), the population of each atoll is concentrated in a single village on the western shore, close to a small natural pass into the central lagoon. This allows canoes and smaller boats to transport passengers and cargo from larger ships docked in the deeper open sea. Tokelau connects with the wider world through a fortnightly shipping link to Samoa which lies approximately 500 km to the south; there is currently no air transportation servicing Tokelau. Isolation and lack of resources greatly restrain economic development and confine agriculture to the subsistence level. The territory relies on aid from New Zealand.

27. The atolls are comprised of calcium carbonate coral reefs, sands and rock. Low fertility of the coral-sand soil means that only a few food crops such as breadfruit, coconut, pandanus, giant swamp taro and banana can be supported at subsistence level, while livestock is limited to poultry and a few pigs. With limited local food production, consumer demand for less traditional foods has increased the quantity of imported foods coming onto Tokelau shores over the last few years.

28. According to FAO, marine resources are Tokelau's largest economic resource and are vital for food security; therefore, sustainable management is a high priority. Management of Tokelau's offshore exclusive economic zone — of more than 300,000 km^2, particularly in regard to illegal commercial fishing, needs to be strengthened. Current challenges in the fisheries sector include lack of resources and capacity; the need to strengthen sustainable management of inshore resources; lack of regular and efficient transport to expedite delivery of fish to external markets; and limited means to manage the exclusive economic zone, especially in regard to illegal commercial fishing activities.

29. Safety at sea is an issue, and the situation in Tokelau is similar to that of other cases in the Pacific in which few measures are in place to monitor and record accidents and emergencies at sea in the small-scale fisheries sector.

30. The Tokelau atolls are only three to five metres above sea level, making the territory very vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and sea level rise. This is already evident with increased coastal erosion, storm surges and inundation. Furthermore, severe tropical storms have been more frequent in recent years with cyclones causing extensive damage. Climate change also poses significant risks to the supply of inshore marine resources as well as the life cycle of fish, resulting in a gradual disappearance of some species. This is threatening the food supply for the villages, as fish is the staple food. A potential climate change impact on migration of ocean fish also presents a risk to the fish resources available from the exclusive economic zone.

31. According to the 2015/16 household income and expenditure survey, non-communicable diseases are a serious problem. Estimates based on survey data indicated that 23 per cent of adults were overweight and 67 per cent were obese. Smoking and alcohol consumption are quite high and the incidence of diabetes is on the increase. The Government has taken some steps to combat this, including taxation of alcoholic drinks and tobacco.

32. A new cycle of the multi-country FAO Country Programming Framework 2018–2022 was approved for the Pacific, including Tokelau. In addition to the region-wide priorities, in Tokelau FAO interventions will reflect the priority outcomes of the Tokelau National Strategic Plan 2010–2015 and national strategies for food security and agriculture and fisheries development. Accordingly, the focus of the Tokelau Framework is on the resilience of food and nutrition security to impacts of disasters and climate change. The overall outcome aims at a sustainable increase in the production of domestic agriculture products and healthy consumption of diverse, safe and nutritious food. Three outputs support this outcome: (a) evidence-based recommendations developed and promoted to incentivize the production and

consumption of safe and healthy food; (b) sustainable and climate-smart practices promoted to help build resilient agriculture, fisheries and forestry production systems; and (c) food control and business practices identified and promoted to facilitate efficient agrifood value chains that provide safe, nutritious and affordable food. FAO support to Tokelau is anticipated under multi-country projects.

33. FAO began a new project to support food security and build the resilience of fishing communities through the provision of tools and capacity-building to reduce the risk of loss of life at sea. The key stakeholders are the Tokelau Department of Fisheries and agencies responsible for small-scale fisheries, village councils and subsistence/small-scale fishermen. Beneficiaries include Tokelau village councils, the Department of Fisheries, fishermen and youth in schools. The project is needed by the island communities to reduce loss of life at sea through capacity-building onshore as well as providing critical tools and training to fishermen at sea to communicate with rescue services during emergencies. The project intends to build safety and crew safety capacities of fishermen on fishing vessels.

34. FAO has active technical cooperation projects to strengthen capacity in home gardening, healthy food awareness and effective biosecurity, and to improve food security and resilience of fishing communities through safer fishing operations. In addition, Tokelau is one of the members participating in the FAO-UNDP-Global Environment Facility project entitled, "Implementation of global and regional oceanic fisheries conventions and related instruments in the Pacific small island developing States".

Regional activities of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission with Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean region in 2017

35. Montserrat participated in the first meeting of the regional Working Group on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, held in Barbados from 1 to 2 March 2017. The joint working group is comprised of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission, Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism and the Central American Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization. At the meeting, attended by 52 experts representing 21 members of the Commission, many aspects of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing were considered. The first meeting of the Working Group contributed to: (a) increasing awareness and understanding of the illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing problem in the Caribbean region; and (b) increasing capacity for a more effective collaboration in preventing, deterring and eliminating such fishing in the Caribbean region, with emphasis on experiences from other regions with vessel monitoring systems and monitoring, control and surveillance supporting measures, and on international and regional instruments to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, such as the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Elimi ate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (FAO Conference resolution 12/2009). The participants also finalized and agreed on the Working Group's terms of reference and work plan for the period 2017–2018 for endorsement by the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism and the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission, and discussed elements to be included in a regional plan of action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

36. Montserrat participated in the second meeting of the regional Working Group on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, held in Barbados, from 19 to 21 September 2017. Thirty-five fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance officers, fisheries managers and other experts from 16 members of the Commission participated in the meeting. At the meeting, the fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance officers were updated on the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels and specific

measures needed in the Caribbean region to effectively reduce such fishing. Participants in this technical meeting also discussed and agreed upon various essential fisheries management measures, such as fishing vessel marking and identification, the establishment of a regional fishing vessel record and regional illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing vessel lists. Those measures will, once adopted by the Commission, allow the fisheries inspectors, coast guard, navy and port officials to easily identify fishing vessels and see if the vessels have the necessary authorizations to fish.

D. International Monetary Fund

37. The engagement of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) with the dependent Territories of a member constitutes part of a broader engagement with the member. Separate assessments of the issues specific to the dependent Territories are not common. For that reason, IMF has only limited information to share. In the past year, there have been three missions for technical assistance on external sector statistics to the following Non-Self-Governing Territories: Anguilla: a mission from 27 to 31 March 2017; British Virgin Islands: a mission from 20 to 31 March 2017; and Cayman Islands: a mission from 16 to 26 May 2017. IMF notes that the documents resulting from the missions are not in the public domain.

E. United Nations Development Programme

38. The activities of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) related to the Territories under the purview of the Special Committee on Decolonization are set out below.

Asia and the Pacific

Tokelau

39. UNDP completed its support to the Tokelau energy sector support project. The final evaluation recommends upscaling the project to reduce domestic demand for electricity. In parallel, UNDP continues its support to green energy production through a biogas project supported by a Global Environment Facility small grant and a conversion of waste-to-energy project supported by the Government of Norway. Following the completion of the Tokelau Good Governance Initiation Plan, a full-scale project document (2018–2021) has been approved by the Government of Tokelau. The Tokelau good governance project will cover three aspects of governance, namely: (a) decision-making; (b) results-based management and budgeting; and (c) transparent and efficient public service delivery. Resources for full project implementation are currently being mobilized from the Governments of New Zealand and Tokelau. In 2017, UNDP delivery for Tokelau was $73,517.

Latin America and the Caribbean

40. In 2017, UNDP aligned its work to the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework, a single strategic framework that will guide the work of all agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations in the Caribbean for the period 2017–2021. This strategic framework was signed in 2017 by 21 Governments in the region and the United Nations system, including the following Non-Self-Governing Territories: Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat.

41. The UNDP Regional Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean has been focused on addressing three main priorities in 2017–2018: climate resilience, disaster risk reduction and implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

42. Of significance in 2017 was the impact of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria — two category five storms — which caused widespread destruction, erasing decades of development progress. UNDP developed a comprehensive strategy to support the affected countries and Territories — including the British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Among the areas of support were:

- Immediate post-disaster recovery planning through the deployment of Early Recovery Advisers to augment the coordination capacity of the Governments
- Restoration of livelihoods and stimulation of local economies through cash-for-work programmes in such areas as waste management and debris removal
- Comprehensive building damage assessments in partnership with national authorities and Microsoft Corporation
- Provision of roofing materials and technical advice on building back better to help in the restoration of government buildings and the homes of people affected

A number of specific actions undertaken at the territorial level in 2017 are set out below.

Montserrat

43. In 2017, UNDP sponsored the participation of three government representatives in the regional conference on the Sustainable Development Goals in the Caribbean, entitled "Caribbean Development — the 2030 Agenda in Perspective". The delegation was led by the Deputy Premier of Montserrat.

British Virgin Islands

44. UNDP is continuing to support the post-Irma and Maria recovery process in the Territory. In the immediate aftermath, the UNDP Recovery Adviser and debris and waste management expert provided guidance to the Government on the overall recovery process as well as management of the tons of debris across the islands. Working with the Department of Waste Management, UNDP is administering an emergency employment programme providing livelihood support to affected persons and addressing the pressing issue of road clearance and debris removal and recovery to facilitate the continued recovery processes.

Subregional, including Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat

45. UNDP is embarking upon a subregional project on improving recovery planning and capacities for resilience in the Caribbean, through which Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat will have an opportunity to enhance national capacities in post-disaster needs assessment.

F. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

46. Six Non-Self-Governing Territories have the status of associate members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), namely Anguilla (2013), the British Virgin Islands (1983), the Cayman Islands (1999), Monserrat (2015), New Caledonia (2017) and Tokelau (2001). UNESCO has been supporting certain Non-Self-Governing Territories through various platforms of action and long-established cooperation relationships, particularly in the exchange of good practices and capacity-building activities organized at the regional, subregional

and local levels. Relevant activities in the various areas of competence of UNESCO are summarized below.

Education

47. In March 2016, the British Virgin Islands became a member of the UNESCO International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030 (Teacher Task Force) and participated in the eighth Policy Dialogue Forum of the Teacher Task Force, held in Mexico City in March 2016. Created in 2008, the Teacher Task Force is a voluntary global alliance of various stakeholders working together to address the "teacher gap", as well as implement and monitor target 4.c of the Sustainable Development Goals to achieve the education 2030 targets and commitments. The Teacher Task Force includes Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, international development agencies, civil society, private sector entities and agencies of the United Nations.

Natural sciences

48. French Polynesia hosted an international tsunami workshop in March 2017. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, the Tsunami Commission of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) and the French Polynesia Tsunami Warning Centre organized the event. The workshop had two main sessions, one on science, entitled "The forecast and observations of the recent (2007–2016) tsunamis in the Pacific", and the other on disaster management, entitled "Improving tsunami response: lessons and initiatives by disaster management organizations". Around 25 scientific researchers participated in the disaster management workshop, including one from New Caledonia.

49. The Fakarava Biosphere Reserve is located in French Polynesia. Designated in 1977, the reserve was extended and renamed in 2006. In 2016, other management procedures were introduced. In 2016, after other management procedures were introduced, the site was updated and the zoning adapted to local legislation, which was approved by the municipality of Fakarava during the periodic review process. The management committee has been extended to include five associations covering the different atolls in which various stakeholders are represented. An interdisciplinary research council was created to coordinate research and ensure its societal relevance as well as linkages with the knowledge and practices of local communities. Local initiatives promote the use of the biosphere designation to attract tourism and funding and promote the site through education. There has been a significant increase in the number of tourists visiting Fakarava. While this is a positive step towards promoting local development, considering the decline of pearl culture and the general increase in unemployment, there is a need to move forward towards finalizing a management plan aimed at ensuring the sustainability of tourism development. Moreover, the exchange of good practices and networking with other biosphere reserves are key to this region. In that regard, Fakarava hosted a regional seminar in June 2017, inviting the Pacific small island developing States.

50. In contrast, in 2017 the Government of the United States of America withdrew the Virgin Islands National Park, located on the island of St. John, from the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

51. In March 2016, a tsunami early warning exercise took place in the Caribbean region. The following Non-Self-Governing Territories took part in the exercise: Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands. The purpose of the test was to identify possible weaknesses in the Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning

System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions, which was established in 2005 under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.

Culture

World Heritage

52. A small number of World Heritage properties are located in Non-Self-Governing Territories (see E/2016/49, para. 24). There are also a number of sites located in Non-Self-Governing Territories, which are included in the tentative list of States parties for nomination to World Heritage status (Ibid., para. 27). Whereas nomination files have to be submitted by those States parties that have ratified the 1972 Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the local authorities of the territories are usually involved in the preparation of the files and the day-to-day management of the properties. Non-Self-Governing territories participate in World Heritage Committee sessions and may make statements as part of the State party delegation. They also often participate in international meetings, capacity-building programmes and training courses organized by UNESCO.

Underwater cultural heritage

53. Several Non-Self-Governing Territories hold important underwater cultural heritage and/or are benefiting from their valorization. Representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories that hold such sites occasionally participate in and benefit from capacity-building programmes organized by UNESCO under its 2001 Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage.

Culture for sustainable development

54. From 22 May to 4 June 2016, Guam hosted the twelfth Festival of Pacific Arts. Organized every four years since 1972, the Festival brings together performing artists, practitioners and artisans from around the Pacific region for two weeks of festivity. It is a major regional cultural event and rallying opportunity in the Pacific that unites Pacific peoples, enhances mutual understanding and celebrates cultural diversity. A total of 27 Pacific island countries and territories took part in the twelfth edition, including American Samoa, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Pitcairn.

55. During the Festival, on 25 May 2016, the Third Meeting of the Pacific Ministers for Culture took place. The Meeting offered an opportunity for the cultural authorities from the Pacific Island States and territories to review the Regional Cultural Strategy: Investing in Pacific Cultures 2010–2020 and discuss a regional approach to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions adopted in 2005.

Communication and information

56. Through its Memory of the World programme, UNESCO has worked to preserve documentary heritage and strengthen archives in Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam and Montserrat.

57. Within the framework of its Information for All programme, UNESCO has built capacities to use information and communications technology for sustainable development in the Cayman Islands. The organization also led capacity-building activities for media associations and journalists to promote press freedom in New Caledonia.

G. Universal Postal Union

58. The Universal Postal Union (UPU), as an intergovernmental organization of a technical character and specialized agency of the United Nations, is currently composed of 192 member countries, comprising 190 sovereign States. The other members include the "Overseas Territories for whose international relations the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is responsible", to which earlier Congresses had granted the separate status of member countries. In that regard, UPU notes that several of the Non-Self-Governing Territories under the purview of the Special Committee form part of the aforementioned United Kingdom Overseas Territories.

59. Other Territories falling under the situation described in article 23 of the UPU Constitution ("Application of the Acts of the Union to territories for whose international relations a member country is responsible") concern the United States, the member country responsible for American Samoa, Guam and the United States Virgin Islands. The same situation applies for France, with regard to French Polynesia and New Caledonia, and for New Zealand, with regard to Tokelau.

60. For all such Territories, the relevant provisions of the Acts of UPU apply in full, particularly with regard to the operation and regulation of international postal services and due fulfilment of the obligations arising from the Acts of UPU. Some of these Territories also benefit from technical cooperation and other UPU projects (as was the case for Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2017).

61. Moreover, a number of Territories have their own designated operators (that is, the governmental or non-governmental entities officially designated by the member country to operate international postal services and to fulfil the related obligations arising out of the Acts of UPU on their territory), such as Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),[1] Gibraltar, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Saint Helena and the Turks and Caicos Islands. UPU also reports that it does not have activities in Western Sahara.

H. World Health Organization

62. The World Health Organization (WHO) provides examples of its activities in Non-Self-Governing Territories in two of its regions (Americas and Western Pacific), as set out below.

Region of the Americas

Anguilla

- In December 2017, through the continued support of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), Anguilla was certified as having eliminated mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS and congenital syphilis
- Training was provided to address the core capacities of the International Health Regulations

- In 2016–17 PAHO/WHO supported the Ministry of Health in completing the STEPS[8] survey on non-communicable disease risk factors
- Following the passage of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria, PAHO/WHO provided support to the Ministry of Health and Social Development with particular emphasis on vector control, mental health and emergency recovery efforts
- During 2016–17 support was given to develop an adolescent health policy and an ageing policy
- Work was also conducted in the areas of food safety and the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

Bermuda

63. The Bermuda Health Strategy 2014–2019 aims to provide a framework to restructure the health system to improve the quality of healthcare, increase access and contain health costs. The vision of the strategy is "Healthy people in healthy communities". PAHO/WHO provided technical cooperation in several areas in line with the strategic priorities identified in the PAHO/WHO Strategy for Technical Cooperation with the United Kingdom Overseas Territories in the Caribbean, 2016–2022.

Communicable diseases

- Vaccine preventable diseases. Bermuda successfully implemented vaccine supply stock management software in September 2017 to strengthen the operational and managerial capacity of the expanded programme on immunization. It was supplemented by the training of health-care workers in both the public and private sectors in the management of the vaccine cold chain. The training helped to facilitate the strengthening of collaboration between the Department of Health and the private health sector and should serve to facilitate strengthening of surveillance for vaccine preventable diseases in the future.
- Validation of the achievement of elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis. Bermuda was one of the six countries and Territories that received certification of the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in the Caribbean on 1 December 2017. During 2016, the validation report was submitted and was followed by both a virtual and field assessment visits which was completed in 2017. The validation will be good for two years.
- Antimicrobial resistance plan development. With the support and leadership of the PAHO Jamaica Office, Bermuda hosted its first multisectoral antimicrobial resistance workshop towards the development of an antimicrobial resistance action plan for Bermuda. This resulted in the nomination of the members of the National Antimicrobial Resistance Coordinating Committee, the nomination of the team lead and the development of the draft national antimicrobial resistance action plan.

Non-communicable diseases

- Nutrition. PAHO/WHO provided guidance in the implementation of the baby-friendly hospital initiative, and 13 health workers, including nurses, health

[8] The WHO STEPwise approach to surveillance is a simple, standardized method for collecting, analysing and disseminating data in WHO member States. Available from http://www.who.int/chp/steps/en/.

visitors and nutrition personnel, were trained in breastfeeding counselling to support this initiative as well as primary health-care services. Work began on developing an infant and young child feeding policy and a national nutrition policy. Support was also given in the development of protocols and procedures related to some nutrition services.

- Risk factors. Bermuda successfully completed the update of the Well Bermuda plan in 2017, using data from the STEPS survey and other relevant data sources. The new tobacco regulations became effective as of July 2016, and staff participated in subregional training on taxation and in other training on smoking cessation.

Health systems and services

- Human resources for health strategy developed. The situation analysis of human resources for health was conducted through a systematic process of stakeholders' engagement and consultations and resulted in the Human Resources for Health Strategic Plan. This was in line with the Bermuda Health Strategy.

- Enhancing cancer treatment at the Bermuda Cancer and Health Centre. PAHO/WHO conducted an assessment and provided technical guidance during the process of incorporating a linear accelerator in the cancer treatment centre to ensure meeting quality and safety standards. Radiation therapy, an essential component of cancer therapy, will now be offered for the first time in Bermuda at the Bermuda Cancer and Health Centre. Previously all patients were accessing radiation therapy overseas. The assessment was critical, owing to the potential to cause significant and irreversible harm to patients if radiation therapy is misapplied, as well as to workers and members of the public resulting from exposure to ionizing radiation. The assessment by PAHO experts during two missions also contributed to local capacity-building in the area of radiation safety as well as to knowledge of critical policies and governance structures to ensure equitable access to the new services and safeguard quality and safety.

- Access to affordable and quality essential medicines. In 2017, Bermuda stabilized routine procurement of antiretroviral drugs through the PAHO Strategic Fund after a pilot in 2016. This resulted in significant cost reduction as the small population size of Bermuda would not allow negotiating favourable prices for procurement of such a small volume of medicines on its own. Bermuda is considering including procurement of drugs for treatment of non-communicable diseases through the Strategic Fund in the future.

- Training in integrated approaches for the assessment, selection, incorporation and rational use of medicines and other health technologies took place in a training workshop jointly with Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.

Building safe and resilient environments that respond to threats and emergencies which have public health consequences

- Bermuda participated in the Health in All Policies and Climate Change and Health meetings held in Jamaica to increase awareness on those topics and achieve better understanding of progress in Bermuda.

- Infectious hazard management training. Bermuda hosted the international Americas Cup in 2017 and as such sought assistance from PAHO/WHO for preparedness and health-risk management of the mass gathering event to prevent and respond to health emergency events, food safety and environmental health. This resulted in infectious hazard management training for health care staff and

the development of an events management plan for the health sector. Support was also given in the monitoring and management of the environmental health aspects of the related premises.

- Emergency response. In 2017, Bermuda was spared from hurricanes. Bermuda was, however, able to assist the British Virgin Islands and Dominica through the provision of one physician who is part of the Caribbean Medical Response Team.

British Virgin Islands

- PAHO/WHO continued its support in the prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV/AIDS and congenital syphilis.
- Following Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria, PAHO/WHO provided emergency relief in all areas but especially for vector control.
- PAHO/WHO continued to support the recovery effort and the strengthening of mental health systems.

Cayman Islands

64. PAHO/WHO provided technical cooperation in several areas in line with the strategic priorities identified in the PAHO/WHO Strategy for Technical Cooperation with the United Kingdom Overseas Territories in the Caribbean 2016–2022.

Communicable diseases

- Validation of the achievement of elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis. The Cayman Islands was one of the six countries and Territories that received certification of the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in the Caribbean on 1 December 2017. During 2016, the validation report was submitted and was followed by a field assessment visit which was completed in 2017. The validation will be good for two years.
- Vaccine preventable diseases. Certification of elimination of measles in September 2016 through the documentation and verification of sustainability of elimination for the period 2012–2015.
- Zoonosis surveillance strengthening. A team from PAHO/WHO conducted an assessment of the zoonotic, foodborne and antimicrobial resistance surveillance programme in the Cayman Island in July 2016. The objectives of the mission were to assess surveillance systems for zoonotic, food-borne and antimicrobial resistance and the level of integration of information between Ministries of Health and Agriculture. It was an important step towards the promotion of the "One Health" approach.
- Antimicrobial plan development supported. PAHO supported the finalization and submission of the Antimicrobial Resistance National Strategy and Action Plan for the Cayman Islands towards the prevention of antimicrobial resistance.
- Influenza surveillance. Support to build local capacity to conduct influenza surveillance was provided by a technical adviser from Headquarters. Persons were trained in molecular testing in Brazil and a field mission was conducted in October 2017.

Non-communicable diseases

- National Mental Health Policy development supported. A national mental health policy was completed in 2017 and is expected to be tabled in the Legislative

Assembly. The policy establishes the framework needed to guide the efforts to integrate mental health services into primary health care and undertake the construction of the Cayman Islands first residential mental health retreat, a 54-bed facility housed in nine cottages, for patients in need of residential mental health care.

- Prevention of obesity in children supported. Activities to strengthen programmes for the prevention and control of obesity were highlighted in preparation for the development of a plan to address this problem in children and adolescents. The pertinent strategies and plans for health and other relevant sectors were reviewed and the actions related to obesity prevention and control identified and collated. They will be incorporated into the development of a plan for childhood and adolescent health.

Life course

- Capacity-building to respond to sexual and intimate partner violence. In an effort to enhance the health system's response to sexual and intimate partner violence, training was conducted for health-care workers.

Health systems and services

- Completion of the Health in the Americas chapter for the Cayman Islands
- Participation in a health technology meeting held in Jamaica
- Capacity-building in the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10)
- Training in integrated approaches for the assessment, selection, incorporation and rational use of medicines and other health technologies took place in a training workshop jointly with Jamaica and Bermuda

Building safe and resilient environments that respond to threats and emergencies which have public health consequences

- The Cayman Islands participated in the climate change and health meetings held in Jamaica to increase awareness of these topics and have better understanding of the progress in Bermuda.
- In 2017, the Cayman Islands was spared from hurricanes. The Cayman Islands, however, was able to assist other Territories under the administration of the United Kingdom that were affected by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria.

Montserrat

- In December 2017, with the continued support of PAHO/WHO, the Territory was declared as having eliminated mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS and congenital syphilis.
- Support was provided for vector control as part of the mitigation efforts for the Zika outbreak.
- Health systems strengthening and a review of the planned new hospital were areas of technical cooperation provided by PAHO.
- PAHO also supported the planning of the non-communicable disease risk factor survey, STEPS, which is expected to be fully implemented in 2018.

Turks and Caicos Islands

65. PAHO/WHO provided technical cooperation in several areas, in line with the strategic priorities identified in the PAHO/WHO Strategy for Technical Cooperation with the United Kingdom Overseas Territories (UKOTs) in the Caribbean 2016–2022.

Communicable diseases

- Vaccine preventable diseases. PAHO/WHO supported the participation of a Territory representative in a regional meeting to plan for the introduction of human papilloma virus vaccine (which is planned for 2018). Introduction of the vaccine is aimed at reducing the risk factors and incidence of cervical cancer. The Territory received technical assistance through PAHO/WHO for introducing electronic methods for improved efficiency in the management of immunization records and monitoring of vaccine coverage.
- Zoonosis surveillance strengthening. PAHO/WHO provided technical assistance to the Territory on Zika virus prevention, control, detection and risk management.

Non-communicable diseases

- National mental health policy development supported.
- WHO trained health personnel to improve service delivery for mental health.
- PAHO/WHO supported the participation of one representative from the Territory in a mental health literacy training workshop held in the Bahamas. This is to catalyse collaboration with the educational sector to increase awareness, reduce stigmatization of persons with mental health problems and link affected youths to health services.
- Supported the prevention of obesity in children.
- PAHO/WHO assisted the Territory in developing a monitoring and evaluation plan to assess the outputs of and outcomes from implementing the national plan of action for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and the Turks and Caicos Islands national health sector strategic plan 2016–2020, entitled "Vision 2020 Health Sector Plan".
- PAHO/WHO trained medical personnel on breastfeeding practices with the aim of increasing the prevalence of breastfeeding among mothers and better nutritional outcomes for babies. PAHO/WHO provided technical assistance towards the development of a school nutrition policy.

Life course

- Strengthening child and maternal health services. WHO supported the introduction of electronic records for the management of perinatal health records.

Health systems and services

- PAHO/WHO provided technical assistance to the health authorities to identify the main drivers of observed increases in costs and opportunities for greater cost efficiencies for hospital care and the treatment abroad programme.
- PAHO/WHO assigned a consultant to provide technical assistance to develop a national Health Information Management system.

- PAHO/WHO provided technical assistance to expand the service delivery options for primary health care to include health promotion, community outreach and improved linkages between primary health care and hospital care. The aim is to reduce congestion in hospitals caused by patients preferentially accessing hospital services for conditions that can be handled at the primary health care level.
- PAHO/WHO provided technical assistance to the health authorities to better identify needs and train and manage human resources for health.
- PAHO/WHO assigned a consultant to the Territory to assess needs and make recommendations for establishing a blood bank.

Building safe and resilient environments that respond to threats and emergencies which have public health consequences

- Health personnel were trained in "psychological first aid" immediately after Hurricane Maria to help them to deal with their own stress and to increase their skills in order to offer assistance to the wider population.
- PAHO/WHO assigned a consultant to the Territory who worked with the health emergency focal points in the Territory to assess and report on damage to hospitals and health facilities following Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria.
- PAHO/WHO assigned three physicians from the Bahamas to work at the primary health care level to temporarily relieve health care workers who had been traumatized by the impact of two hurricanes.

Western Pacific Region

66. During 2017, the main technical support to the Non-Self-Governing Territories was provided through the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, the WHO Representative Office for the South Pacific and the Samoa country office.

American Samoa

67. In 2017, WHO helped to organize a high-level meeting between American Samoa and Samoa on the elimination of lymphatic filariasis (commonly known as elephantiasis). It has enabled planning for simultaneous mass drug administration for both parties in 2018, which will not only save costs but also allow for better controlling the risk of spreading the disease across borders. Both parties also agreed to conduct annual programme reviews and planning workshops. Resources to achieve the action plans will be needed from both Governments and partners. Other achievements/deliverables in 2017 included an awareness campaign for World Antibiotic Awareness Week and situational analysis for antimicrobial resistance; promotion of hand hygiene practices in hospital and public settings in the "Save Lives: Clean Your Hands" campaign; and the first American Samoa — Samoa training for community representatives on chronic disease self-management.

French Polynesia

68. French Polynesia continues to provide to WHO, on a weekly basis, their health monitoring data, which are then published via the email-based outbreak notification and discussion forum of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PacNet). In 2017 WHO staff visited French Polynesia and travelled to Bora Bora to visit their water safety plant. French Polynesia participated in the twelfth Pacific Health Ministers Meeting in the Cook Islands, from 28–30 August 2017, supported by WHO.

New Caledonia

69. WHO supported the participation of New Caledonia in the fifth Regional Workshop on Leadership and Advocacy for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, held in Saitama, Japan, from 12 to 15 September 2017, with a focus on physical activity. New Caledonia also participated, supported by WHO, in the regional meeting, Consultation on the Draft "Regional framework for health promotion in the Sustainable Development Goals" and Review of Progress on Regional Action Plans on Non-Communicable Diseases, Tobacco Free Initiative and Double Burden of Malnutrition, held in Manila, Philippines, from 15 to 19 May 2017. The nominated member from New Caledonia was selected by the Regional Director of the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific to serve as a member of the combined Subregional Committees for the Certification of Poliomyelitis Eradication and Verification of Measles Elimination in Pacific Island Countries and Areas for an initial period of three years. New Caledonia participated in the twelfth Pacific Health Ministers Meeting in the Cook Islands, from 28–30 August 2017, supported by WHO.

Tokelau

70. Tokelau, in addition to dealing with the impact of climate change on health, is struggling with a non-communicable disease crisis. In that regard, WHO supported the Tokelau non-communicable disease summit in May 2017, which was attended by representatives of the General Fono, ministries, civil society organizations, the secretariat of the Pacific Community and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The main outcome of the summit led to much greater recognition of the problem and the planning of whole-of-society actions to address non-communicable diseases, including reconfirming the target for Tokelau Smoke-Free 2020; strengthening the ban on the importation of all fizzy drinks to Tokelau; launching discussion in the General Fono on increased taxation for alcoholic drinks; and reintroducing physical activity programmes in schools. The efforts of Tokelau were recognized by WHO through its 2017 World No Tobacco Day award. The summit has had a transformative effect, with commitments on all sides: for Department of Health, to bring services closer to the communities; for the General Fono, to gradually ban importation of all tobacco products and restrict importation of alcohol and unhealthy food; and for WHO and its partners to scale up support to the Government in addressing the non-communicable disease crisis and the impact of climate change on health. Tokelau participated in the twelfth Pacific Health Ministers Meeting in the Cook Islands, from 28–30 August 2017, supported by WHO.